

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W  
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R 271748Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4228  
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6818

E.OBM 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI-  
THE POLITICAL SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY APRIL 27 CALL ON PRIME  
MINISTER ANDREOTTI TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL  
SITUATION. HE EXPECTS THAT THIS MORNING'S DC DIRECTORATE  
MEETING WILL ENDORSE MORO'S OFFER TO SEEK PROGRAMMATIC  
UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES ON CERTAIN, SPECIFIC  
ISSUES SUCH AS PUBLIC ORDER AND ECONOMIC POLICY PROVIDED  
THAT THIS WILL NOT ALTER THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK. ANDREOTTI  
BELIEVES THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE PROTRACTED, LASTING  
THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY. HE APPEARED OPTIMISTIC THAT AN  
AGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT, POINTING OUT THAT THE LEFT  
PARTIES HAVE REDUCED THEIR PRESSURES ON THE DC FOR RADICAL  
CHANGES AND NOW APPEAR READY TO SUPPORT STERNER PUBLIC  
SECURITY MEASURES FAVORED BY THE DC AND PUBLIC OPINION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ANDREOTTI EXPECTS THAT THIS MORNING'S DC DIRECTORATE  
MEETING WILL ENDORSE THE INITIATIVE (FORMULATED BY MORO)  
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TO SEEK PROGRAMMATIC UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE OTHER  
POLITICAL PARTIES "ON THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE."  
HE SAID THAT IF SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING (COVERING MAJOR  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION INCLUDING PUBLIC SECURITY)  
CAN BE ACHIEVED, IT WOULD REPRESENT NO MARKED CHANGE  
FROM THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION THAT NOW GOES ON BETWEEN  
THE PARTIES BEFORE DRAFT LEGISLATION IS PRESENTED TO

PARLIAMENT. THE LEFT PARTIES ALSO SEEK SOME FORM OF POLITICAL "GUARANTEES". THIS POSES A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM. THE DC REJECTS OUTRIGHT THE PROPOSAL FOR A PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL GROUP (MADE UP OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADS OF EACH PARTY) AS AN UNACCEPTABLE CONSTRAINT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS. HOWEVER, ANDREOTTI ALLOWED (AS HE RECENTLY PUBLICLY STATED) THAT A CABINET SHUFFLE TO HERMIT THE INCLUSION OF A FEW "TECHNICIAN" MINISTERS REPRESENTATIVE OF LEFT PARTIES MIGHT BE A "POSSIBILITY." HE SAID THAT THE DC WILL NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE POLITICAL "GUARANTEES" BEFORE A PROGRAMMATIC UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN WORKED OUT.

3. ANDREOTTI APPEARED OPTIMISTIC THAT A PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD WILL BE REACHED, BUT HE SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH COULD BE BOTH BILATERAL AND COLLEGIAL) COVER COMPLICATED GROUND AND WILL THEREFORE NECESSARILY BE PROTRACTED. HE EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL TAKE UP ALL OF MAY. HE WAS ENCOURAGED THAT THE LEFT PARTIES HAVE REDUCED PRESSURES FOR RADICAL CHANGES COMPARED TO LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH THE SOCIALISTS STILL PUBLICLY SUPPORT A NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT, ANDREOTTI REMARKED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE PSI REALLY WANTS IT AS THE SOCIALISTS WOULD BE CRUSHED UNDER THE PCI'S POLITICAL WEIGHT.

4. AS EVIDENCE OF THE LEFT'S MORE MODERATE STANCE, ANDREOTTI SAID THAT THE DC'S FIRM PUBLIC ORDER MEASURES NOW APPEAR TO BE LESS OF A POLITICAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO REACHING A PROGRAMMATIC UNDERSTANDING. INFLUENCED

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BY PUBLIC (AND POLICE) SENTIMENT FOR STRONGER MEASURES TO CONTROL EXTREMIST POLITICAL VIOLENCE AS WELL AS BY THE STILL-UNRESOLVED KIDNAPPING OF PSI LEADER DEMARTINO'S SON, THE LEFT PARTIES ARE NOW MORE WILLING TO SUPPORT A HARDER LINE ON PUBLIC ORDER. ANDREOTTI SAID HE THOUGHT THE LEFT WILL EVEN ACCEPT THE DC'S CONTROVERSIAL "PREVENTIVE DETENTION" BILL BY COUCHING IT IN DIFFERENT TERMINOLOGY. AS TO THE UNIVERSITY REFORM BILL, ANDREOTTI SAID THE PCI IS RE-EVALUATING SOME OF ITS TRADITIONAL POSITIONS IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYABLE GRADUATES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE PCI IS SEEKING WAYS TO SHIFT ITS LONG-STANDING INSISTENCE ON OPEN UNIVERSITY ADMISSION, POSSIBLY BY SETTING LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PERMITTED TO ENROLL AT INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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